

REMARKS

Claims 30 and 44-52 are pending after entry of this amendment. As pointed out by the Examiner in the Office Action mailed December 29, 2005, claim numbers 45 and 49 were missing from the previously pending claims. The claims have been renumbered to reflect that inadvertent error. Claims 53-66 were cancelled via this amendment.

§ 102/ § 103 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 53-54, 57-62, 64-66 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by or alternatively under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,231,988, Wernicke et al. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Although Applicant does not necessarily agree with these rejections, claims 53, 54, 57-62, and 64-66 were cancelled herein. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

§ 103 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 55-56, 63 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,231,988, Wernicke et al. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Although Applicant does not necessarily agree with this rejection, claims 55, 56, and 63 were cancelled herein. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

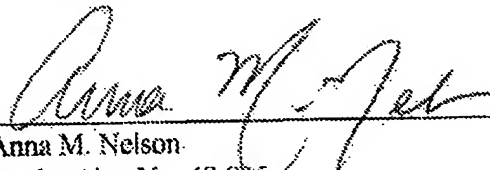
In view of the foregoing amendments, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the claims as all rejections have been overcome. Early notice of allowability is kindly requested.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone at 763.505.0409 or by E-mail at anna.m.nelson@medtronic.com with any questions or comments.

Please grant any extension of time, if necessary for entry of this paper, and charge any fee due for such extension or any other fee required in connection with this paper to Deposit Account No. 13-2546.

Respectfully submitted,

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